

**FACSIMILE COVER PAGE**

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**To :** Attorney General John Ashcroft**From :** Myrna-Sue Shimberg**Sent :** 1/16/2002 at 8:38:54 PM**Pages :** 1 (including Cover)**Subject :** Microsoft settlement

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Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

Microsoft has succeeded because it has made products that are easier to use and more effective than its competitors. I was pleased to learn that a settlement was recently reached in the antitrust case that was begun more than three years ago by the Justice Department. I hope it will finally bring an end to this case.

Microsoft should be allowed to function and compete without excessive government intervention. The settlement that was reached this November could conclude the federal case if it is put in place. Sadly some opponents of the settlement may try to undermine the settlement because they feel it is too undemanding. However the reality is that this settlement is very comprehensive. The settlement requires Microsoft to end any contractual restriction that could be interpreted as harmful to competitors. Additionally, this settlement compels Microsoft to share proprietary code with competitors, to an unprecedented extent. Undoubtedly this settlement should be the end of this case, despite what the Microsoft opponents may contend.

Sincerely,

Myrna-Sue Shimberg  
11068 N. Mountain Breeze Drive  
Tucson, AZ 85737